

Message Text

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21

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-01 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

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TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01 /087 W

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R 071437Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4712

INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR EC XM

SUBJECT: PRESS COMMENT ON THE STATE OF THE ALLIANCE

REF: A) QUITO 1466 B) QUITO 1506 C) QUITO 1585

1. SUMMARY: IN TWO EDITORIALS DURING THE LAST FOUR DAYS, EL COMERCIO, QUITO'S LARGEST AND MOST INFLUENTIAL DAILY, HAS TREATED BOTH US-ECUADOREAN AND US-HEMISPHERIC RELATIONS IN A VIEW OF SECRETARY KISSINGER'S SATURDAY, MARCH 1, SPEECH IN HOUSTON THAT SEEMED TO US REMARKEDLY BALANCED AND ON THE WHOLE, OPTIMISTIC. END SUMMARY.

2. IN AN EDITORIAL ON MARCH 3RD ENTITLED "PROBLEMS IN THE HEMISPHERE" (REF A), EL COMERCIO NOTED THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER HAD MADE A NUMBER OF POSITIVE POINTS IN HIS HOUSTON SPEECH, POINTS SHARED BY ECUADOR, AND WHICH DEMONSTRATED "AN APPRECIABLE CHANGE OF AMERICAN ATTITUDE WITH RESPECT TO LATIN AMERICAN PROBLEMS." AMONG THEM WERE HOLDING OUT THE POSSIBILITY OF A CHANGE IN THE TRADE REFORM ACT TO ALLOW ECUADOR AND VENEZUELA GENERALIZED TARIFF PREFERENCES; THE POSSIBILITY
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OF IMPROVED RELATIONS WITH CUBA; AND THE POSSIBILITY OF

THE REFORM IN THE OAS TO PERMIT MAJORITY OPINION TO CARRY MORE WEIGHT. ECUADOR SUPPORTS THE OAS AS AN ARTICLE OF FAITH IN ITS FOREIGN POLICY; IT HAS REPEATEDLY AFFIRMED THAT IT WILL NOT BREAK RANKS WITH THE OAS BY UNILATERAL ACTION. THE COMERCIO EDITORIAL NOTES THAT THERE HAVE BEEN MANY STUDIES AND PROPOSALS FOR REFORM OF THE OAS, AND DESCRIBES THE NEED FOR CHANGE AS "INDISPENSABLE". CALLING THE KISSINGER SPEECH "AN OPTIMISTIC ACCENT ON THE ATTAINABILITY OF A NEW DIALOGUE" THE EDITORIAL GOES ON TO REPEAT ECUADOR'S POSITION THAT IT WILL FIRST BE NECESSARY TO CHANGE "A LAW WHICH IS EXPRESSLY DISCRIMINATORY AGAINST TWO LATIN AMERICAN NATIONS, MEMBERS OF THE OAS, AND WHICH THE NEW DIALOGUE MUST INCLUDE." THE EDITORIAL CONCLUDES "RELATIONS BETWEEN THE COUNTRIES OF THE HEMISPHERE MUST BE STRENGTHENED, AND SHOULD LEAD TO COLLABORATION AS A BLOC, JUSTLY DEALING WITH ALL THOSE MUTUAL INTERESTS THEY SHARE." AND THEN WINDS UP WITH A RESTATEMENT OF THE ECUADOREAN POSITION THAT FIRST IT IS NECESSARY TO ELIMINATE THE CAUSES OF UNEQUAL TREATMENT METED OUT TO TWO OF THEM.

3. IN THE SECOND EDITORIAL (REF C) ENTITLED "ON THE UNITED STATES TRADE REFORM ACT", EL COMERCIO OF MARCH 6TH NOTES THAT THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD (UNNAMED) OF THE FIRST NATIONAL CITY BANK OF NEW YORK TESTIFIED BEFORE THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE ON THE URGENCY OF AMENDING THE TRADE REFORM ACT WITH RESPECT TO DISCRIMINATION AGAINST OPEC MEMBERS. EL COMERCIO PARTICULARLY PRAISES THE FNCB CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT TO THE COMMITTEE "I AM SURE YOU ARE AWARE THAT YOUR LANGUAGE IS AMBIGUOUS, IN PART, NO DOUBT, BECAUSE THE SENATE ADOPTED THE AMENDMENT (AGAINST OPEC MEMBERS) IN HASTE AT THE LAST MOMENT." THE COMERCIO EDITORIAL, PERHAPS IN AN ATTEMPT AT RATIONALIZATION, ALSO REFERS ELSEWHERE TO THE FACT THAT THE AMENDMENT WAS A LAST-MINUTE ADDITION TO THE BILL, AND GOES ON TO SAY "LEGISLATURES OF ANY COUNTRY SOMETIMES MAKE DECISIONS WHICH ARE NOT THOROUGHLY JUST, OR WHICH ARE BASED UPON AN INCOMPLETE REFLECTION OF THE EFFECT THEY WILL HAVE, SOMETHING WHICH APPEARS TO HAVE OCCURRED IN THE CASE OF THAT PORTION OF THE TRA WHICH IS DIRECTED AGAINST COUNTRIES OF THIS HEMISPHERE WHICH HAVE NEVER SHOWN ANY HOSTILITY TOWARDS, NOR DAMAGED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE COMMERCIAL INTERESTS OF, THE UNITED STATES. THE VOICE OF SUCH AN IMPORTANT BANKER WILL SURELY BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT ON THE SIDE OF ERASING A MISTAKE WHICH HAS DISTURBED OUR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND HAS RAISED SUCH A JUST PROTEST FROM THE AFFECTED NATIONS." AND THE EDITORIAL CONCLUDES, ON AN OPTIMISTIC NOTE WHICH WE HAVE SEEN REPEATEDLY CREEP INTO BOTH OFFICIAL ECUADOREAN PRONOUNCEMENTS AS WELL AS PRESS COMMENTARY, "RUNNING THROUGH THE ENTIRE

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC SPECTRUM OF HEMISPHERIC RELATIONS,
HAS BEEN A THREAD OF COLLABORATION ON BEHALF OF THE WELL-
BEING OF ALL OF THE NATIONS OF AMERICA. TO ATTAIN THIS
OBJECTIVE, HOWEVER, IT IS NECESSARY TO REMOVE A FACTOR
WHICH CONSTITUTES A SERIOUS OBSTACLE (THE DISCRIMINATORY
TREATMENT UNDER THE TRA)."
BREWSTER

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